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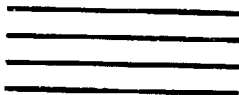
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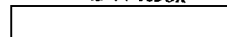
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Developments

RWANDA: Expanding War Deepens Crisis

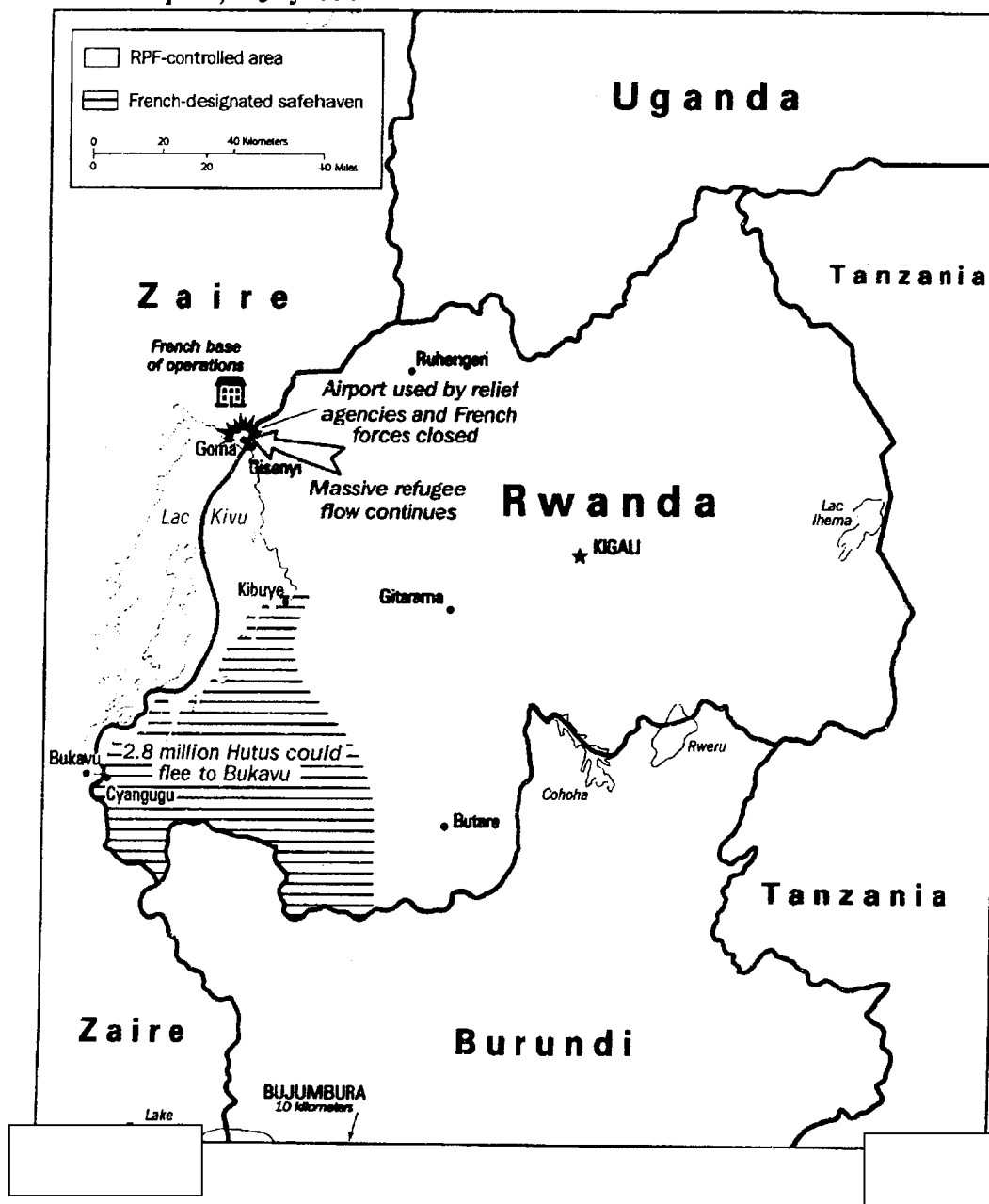
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Situation Update, 17 July 1994

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18 July 1994

~~Top Secret~~*Developments***RWANDA:****Expanding War Deepens Crisis**

Troops of the mostly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front shelled Goma airport in Zaire yesterday, shutting down the airlift of food and other supplies for more than 1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees, according to press reports. *Fighting is likely to continue along the border, further disrupting international efforts to relieve the refugees' suffering.*

— Troops loyal to the Rwandan Hutu regime reportedly have deployed heavy weapons in Goma.

The RPF's threat to invade the French-patrolled humanitarian safe zone in southwestern Rwanda could trigger another 2.8 million Hutus there to seek refuge near the Zairian town of Bukavu—where the inadequate airport and other infrastructure would make delivering humanitarian aid even harder than around Goma. The RPF says it wants Paris to surrender Hutu regime leaders, accused of orchestrating anti-Tutsi genocide, who have fled to the French zone.

— *Continued RPF shelling of Goma—the logistic hub for France's Rwanda operation—would isolate French troops and increase their vulnerability to RPF attacks.*

International relief officials yesterday told US diplomats that they fear a further flow of refugees into Zaire will bring a total breakdown of law and order in the region, *putting aid workers, French troops, and other foreigners at risk.*

Press reports say Bonn agreed yesterday to a UN request to fly relief supplies to Zaire for Rwandan refugees but limited its participation to one month. A Social Democratic Party spokesman told the press that the proposed operation would be discussed on Friday during an extraordinary session of the Bundestag, called to approve German participation in UN operations in Bosnia retroactively.

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